(v) Allowing SAIL to have a minority shareholding in any joint venture contemplated for revival of Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO).

(c) and (d) The revival package has been generally welcomed.

Ban on Export of Leather

†*245. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a ban has been imposed by the Government on export of different varieties of leather from the Country;

(b) if so, what are those different varietieis of leather;

(c) what was the average annual value of export of this banned leather before imposing a ban on its export; and

(d) the reasons for imposing a ban on it now?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The export of Raw Hides and Skins, Industrial Leathers, Linning Leathers, Semi-finished leather such as wet blue hides and skins, crust leather, EI tanned leather etc. have been under restriction since January, 1973.

(c) Details of variety-wise export is as below:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

SlNo.	Item	1971-72
1.	E.I. tanned leather and skins	64.27
2.	Finished leather	3.56
3.	Chrome tanned	21.77
4.	Leather Miscellaneous	0.55
Total of Leather & Leather Mfg.		90.15"

(d) The restrictions have been in existence since 1973 and relaxed in the case of E.I. tanned leather in January, 2000

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.